



# IDAHO

## LEARN & SERVE

### NEWSLETTER



**VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3**

**DECEMBER 2007**

## Note from the Director

2007 certainly has been an exciting year for our Idaho Learn & Serve program. Along with our four continuing grantees, we had the great opportunity to add eight new learn & serve schools to Idaho. Spread throughout every region of the state, we now have seven elementary schools and five secondary schools with Learn & Serve grants.

This year has brought a whirlwind of activity since I came on board with Learn & Serve in July, and it promises to continue with excitement throughout this school year. We had good attendance at the youth leadership workshops in Boise, Pocatello and Moscow. This is a change from previous years where we had only one youth workshop in Boise, but we thought it would be easier for us to travel than for you and your kids to travel and have to stay overnight.

I hope you all have enjoyed this Newsletter, and gained from the Learn & Serve experiences of our schools. I am always amazed at the energy and creative ideas you all come up with. We truly believe these will be life changing experiences for the students and teachers as well.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Lakeland High School, Rathdrum, ID

### Care To Bare the Cold

#### In the Pale Morning Light

The flames cracked and sent sparks into the bitter air. There were about 25 of us all huddled around a small trash can fire, but we were calm despite the night that lay ahead of us. It was the middle of October, the temperature was just above freezing and none of us had eaten that night. We had spent our time discussing the issue of homelessness in our community and preparing our beds, which consisted of various sizes of cardboard boxes. It was the much anticipated Care to Bare the Cold.

The idea had been hatched months prior in the chemistry room of Lakeland High School. A group that didn't even have a name yet was meeting once a week, before school, to discuss what it means to be a human and more

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**Lakeland High Students**

## PARMA LEARNING CENTER HOLDS A COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

The Parma Learning Center's (PLC) kick-off event for Learn & Serve was a health fair held on October 18<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 6 pm. The project was planned by the student leadership team, and fellow students, and involved ten community partners, including Health and Welfare, Western Sleep Disorders, Modern Woodmen of America, the Parma Clinic, Girl Scouts, the Idaho Dairy Council, the Parma Fire Department, and the Migrant Council. The community of Parma was invited and over 100 people attended, not including the PLC students who participated.

The purpose of the fair was to help kids and other community members better understand the relationship among nutrition, health and the use of plants. This event was the beginning of a year of exciting and educational activities where students will focus on science, nutrition, gardening, and community service. Each class in the PLC after school program designed and put together a booth that illustrated a principle of health promoting what they have been learning in their Learn & Serve projects. Community

partners teamed with the students to distribute informational materials and prizes. Here are some of the highlights of the event:

- The 1st graders used flours made from grain, and oils made from corn to make play dough for all participants.
- The 2nd grade booth focused on making appropriate snack choices and included a survey and posters on the subject.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade booths emphasized the importance of eating healthy food and increasing physical activity. They provided various snacks including juices, cheese, celery, peanut butter and whole wheat tortillas with beans and chilies.
- The middle school class held a fruit tasting booth where they surveyed attendees on their preferences for several exotic fruits (quince, papaya, Asian pear, pomegranate and tangelo). They then used math to tabulate their findings.

The kids had a great time putting together the booths, taking turns staffing them, and attending the health fair. Here are some of their comments:

"We learned how to share and take turns." –Jordan

"If you eat healthy, you grow stronger." – Ricky

"Drinking pop can affect your health. If you drink one pop each day for six days, that's 150 extra grams of sugar!" — Brian

"The students learned how much fun it is to share what they are learning about nutrition with their parents and other community members. This is in preparation for our continued Learn & Serve projects of gardening and helping the Parma community." –Mrs. Faust



Parma Learning Center

# Lakeland High School

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importantly what it takes to walk in someone else's shoes. There we all stood, after weeks of planning, a band of thoughtful high school students who were determined to experience the life of the homeless for a day.

The hours seemed to drag on during that dark and frigid night, but in the boxes spread out across the tennis court many of us lay awake thinking about the hundreds of homeless men, women and children that were sleeping much like us somewhere in our county.

We all crawled out of our boxes when the pale morning light broke over the frostbitten mountains. Many of us had been gathering blankets and food for weeks and that morning we decided that we were going to make a difference in our community. We were going to change the lives of the hundreds of people who had woken up much like us that morning. We had acquired empathy during that somber night.

**By Sariah Vicira**

**Lakeland High School**

**NOTE:** In their study on homelessness, these students experienced just how hard it is to be homeless. They learned that about 300 local homeless people were out there that same night sleeping on the street. One girl said she just tried to "survive" the cold night, and it wasn't until the following day that the reality hit of what it would be like not to be able to come home to a warm house.

After Care to Bare the Cold, the Lakeland students donated blankets, Walmart gift cards, and food to local shelters.



## Important Dates to Remember

**January 4, 2008** – *Early Bird Registration Deadline extended for the Nat'l Service-Learning Conference in Minneapolis. Save \$75 on adult registration.*

**January 15, 2008** – *First Progress Report Due*

**February 15, 2008**—*Request for Proposals Released for 2008—2009*

**February 27-29, 2008** – *Serve Idaho Conference – Post Falls, ID.*

**March 15, 2008**—*RFP Application Closing Dates*

**April 9-12, 2008**—*19th Annual National Service-Learning Conference—Minneapolis, MN.*



**Moscow Youth Leadership Workshop**



State Department of  
Education

Tom Luna  
Superintendent of Public  
Instruction

650 W. State Street

P.O. Box 83720

Boise, ID 83720-0027

208-332-6800

**For more information  
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**Learn and Serve Idaho** provides young people with opportunities to serve Idaho by connecting community service with academic learning, personal growth, and civic responsibility. Grantees create new service learning programs, replicate existing models, and train staff, faculty, adult volunteers, and students in service learning. Participants are K-12, school-age youth.

Eligible applicants for Learn & Serve grants are Idaho K-12 schools of any grade span. Grantee schools must be committed to service learning as a teaching/learning strategy and as an integral component of education.

The vision of Learn and Serve Idaho is to assist schools in implementing site-based programs of service learning through policy, practice, and capacity building. Learn and Serve Idaho provides financial and technical assistance to schools as they develop and implement policies and supportive structures at all levels, while reducing barriers to the institutionalization of service learning.

For more information contact Cheryl Kary—cmkary@sde.idaho.gov or 208-332-6913.

## Student's Corner

Service learning is a group of students who get together to make their community better. In each project we do, we find a problem in our community and work together to solve it. We are also learning about our school subjects while completing the projects. We are helping people and learning outside the classroom in the process.

I have learned from our service learning projects, that even a small group of young teenagers from a small town can make a difference. If each and every one of us are dedicated, anything can happen. Our latest service learning project has helped me learn what to do if someone is bullied in the hallways, how to prevent bullying, and how not to be a participant to bullying. I have learned how to lend a helping hand in my school. Service learning has shown me that helping people is one of my natural abilities, and I am pretty darn good at it.

**Emily Kuka**

8<sup>th</sup> grader— Wendell Middle School

Service learning is a project that combines the two words in its title. Service- we help the community, nation, or the world. Learning- we all learn something, or teach something, during the experience. We help others while learning important skills.

Service learning has shown me that we need to help our community and world. I have learned we can help in many ways. We have learned about teamwork, learned skills that we use in the classroom, and learned to set goals and meet them. I have enjoyed helping others and making a difference in my community.

**Justice Evers**

8<sup>th</sup> grader—Wendell Middle School

Service learning is a way to help your community while learning. We complete projects that help others and we learn classroom skills. For example, we are collecting coins to help local families have a good Christmas. We will be using math skills with the coins, teamwork to reach our goals, and we will help people in our community.

**Neesi McConnell**

7<sup>th</sup> grader—Wendell Middle School



**Burton Elementary**